

Rickey (S. O.)

Eczema simplex * * * * *





ECZEMA SIMPLEX—AMETROPIA ITS CAUSE.*

By S. O. RICHEY, M.D., WASHINGTON, D. C.

SLIGHT degrees of ametropia are often followed by consequences seemingly incommensurate with the cause. The reflexes of ametropia are frequent, annoying, and often peculiar. Neither the experience nor the reading of the writer have before brought to his attention a case such as that herewith described, and he can find in medical literature no case of eczema attributed to the same source.

Oct. 14, 1882.—C. K., a girl æt. ten , of robust appearance, and enjoying good general health, but suffering with supra-orbital pain after any attempt at using her eyes, was examined by me. At a period, varying from two to ten hours after taxing the eyes, the upper and lower lids of the right eye especially, became œdematosus. The swelling extended over the malar prominences to the alæ nasi, and was accompanied by an erythema of the malar prominences, followed by a vesicular eruption, during which the parts affected were sensitive to the touch. The time necessary to read at twenty feet distance the ordinary Snellen's test-type was sufficient for this effect.

The eyes were normal, except for a hypermetropia and a resultant amblyopia, O. D. V = $\frac{2}{4}0$: O. S. V = $\frac{2}{3}0$ —. With mydriasis ; O. D. V = $\frac{2}{4}0$: O. S. V = $\frac{2}{10}0$. With both eyes V = $\frac{2}{5}0$ —. With + 1.25, O. D. V = $\frac{2}{3}0$ +. With + 1, O. S. V = $\frac{2}{3}0$ +. With the lenses and both eyes, V = $\frac{2}{3}0$ —.

Nov. 15th.—The lenses have been worn constantly. Eserinæ sulph. and the galvanic current have been applied topically, with the result that the two sides of the face are alike in size, and ten

* This case was referred to me by Dr. C. E. Hagner, with the impression that the eczema depended on probable ametropia.—S. O. R.

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minutes' reading causes nothing more than a blush upon the right cheek, which lasts only a few hours. This effect of the use of the eyes is gradually diminishing, and the patient does not complain of any pain whatever.

Nov. 15, 1883.—There has been no return of the eczema, although the child is using her eyes—with the glasses—beyond the usual school hours, probably seven or eight hours daily.

We find infrequently this condition of swelling, extending, from the eyelids down upon the cheeks when there is ametropia, and particularly in cases of mixed astigmatism; but extravasation of blood is rare, and it has not before been my fortune to observe the eruption which in this case has followed any attempt at use of the eyes. The eczema is an expression of disturbed vaso-motor action, by reflex influence through the cavernous plexus of the sympathetic, which gives off filaments to the third cranial nerve just before it divides posterior to the sphenoidal fissure. As the third nerve supplies motor power to the ciliary muscle, the connection is very direct.



